

**Draft**  
**Bundles of Early Implementation Actions**  
**(Pre-ROD and Early Stage 1)**  
**March 9, 1999**

**Introduction**

The CALFED Bay-Delta Program was established to solve problems in ecosystem quality, water quality, water supply reliability, and levee and channel integrity. The Program seeks to do this by developing a long-term comprehensive plan that will restore ecological health and improve water supply and water supply reliability for beneficial uses of the Bay-Delta System. The Program has crafted alternatives that improve water quality so as to protect Delta drinking water supplies and improve the quality of aquatic habitat. Maintaining and improving the integrity of Delta levees and channels will protect agricultural, urban, and environmental uses within the Delta and protect the quality of water uses elsewhere in the state. Water conservation and recycling programs can assure the efficient use of existing water supplies and any new supplies developed through the Program.

In Phase III, following completion of the Final Programmatic EIR/EIS, implementation will begin. This period will include site-specific environmental review and permitting, as necessary. Because of the size and complexity of any of the alternatives, implementation is likely to take place over a period of decades.

The first stage of Program implementation is critical to its long-term success because it will serve as an indication of the CALFED agencies and stakeholder community capacity to define a cost-effective, practical, and equitable set of actions which advance the Program objectives. In order to move expeditiously into Program implementation after completion of the Programmatic EIR/EIS and the Record of Decision, it is necessary to begin now to define the earliest, high priority actions, their funding requirements and sources, implementing entities, and detailed implementation plans for each action. This draft paper is intended to open a broad discussion of these issues and to elicit input from all interested participants in the CALFED process.

Based on discussions with CALFED Program Managers, proposed high priority actions have been identified for implementation prior to or shortly after the completion of Phase II. CALFED Program Managers in turn relied on input from technical advisory groups, public comments, agency comments, and judgment to develop this initial draft of proposed early implementation actions. This includes actions currently underway or proposed for initiation in Federal Fiscal Years 1999-2000. These actions are selected in order to address some of the most critical problems facing the Bay-Delta system, to achieve a fair and well balanced suite of actions, and to develop the scientific information required to guide later implementation actions according to the principles of adaptive management. The bundles highlight some critical ongoing programs which will require

implementation decisions in the near future, but do not include the many ongoing monitoring and improvement programs in the Bay-Delta region.

Funding estimates for FY 2000 have been developed based on an initial set of proposed actions. These estimated costs will need to be updated as the list of high priority actions is refined based on agency and stakeholder input. Each proposed action must undergo the appropriate environmental review and permits process prior to implementation; their inclusion here is simply designed to help develop action and budget priorities.

The actions have been grouped into 7 bundles either to provide a balanced suite of actions for specific regions within the CALFED problem and solution, or to provide programmatic balance between actions which are not necessarily associated with any specific geographic area (Table 1, Attachment A, and Attachment B). The table includes preliminary review comments provided by CALFED agencies (Note 1, at the end of this memo).

Once these bundles have been fully reviewed and refined, specific linkage mechanisms, as appropriate, need to be identified to assure that the bundled actions indeed move forward together as intended. A wide range of bundling mechanisms may be applied, including contracts, inter-agency agreements, legislation (including bond acts), and individual agency funding commitments.

The 7 bundles are described below, in no particular order of priority:

#### **Lower San Joaquin River and South Delta Region Bundle**

This bundle is designed to address the regional concerns regarding south Delta and lower San Joaquin River and south Delta fisheries, water quality, water supply reliability, recreation, flood control, and wildlife habitat. The proposed actions are designed to conduct feasibility and environmental evaluations and implement corrective actions in the region as well as in upstream watersheds which affect the quality and quantity of flows in the San Joaquin River.

#### **Lower Sacramento River, North Delta Bundle**

This bundle is designed to develop an balanced solution to concerns surrounding fishery and water quality impacts of diversions from the Sacramento River into the central Delta, to address regional flood concerns, and to substantially enhance riparian and wetlands habitat corridors in the region.

### **Yolo Bypass, Suisun Marsh, and West Delta Bundle**

This bundle is designed to address group water quality, fisheries protection, and habitat enhancement actions for the west Delta region, including Suisun Marsh, the west Delta islands, and the Yolo Bypass. Because expansion of wetlands in the Yolo Bypass area could exacerbate the potential toxicity effects of mercury originating in the Cache Creek basin, this bundle includes substantial research to identify those sources and potential remediation tools.

### **Delta-Wide ERP/Levees Bundle**

This bundle is designed to achieve a reasonable balance between implementation of ecosystem improvement actions and levee system improvement actions. In addition this bundle includes actions to improve fisheries, water quality, and habitat throughout the Delta, including protection and enhancement of Delta in-channel islands.

### **Sacramento River, San Joaquin River and Tributaries Bundle**

This bundle includes ecosystem restoration (primarily fisheries habitat, hatchery management, and floodplain and meander belt restoration along key river reaches.

### **Integrated Water Management Bundle**

This bundle includes actions which can lead to improvements in water supply reliability and flexibility through improvements in water use efficiency, water transfers, water storage and conveyance facilities (groundwater and surface water), water quality, and water associated habitats. The proposed actions include the Program problem area and solution areas, including state and federal project service areas and upper watersheds. It includes key actions that comprise the Integrated Storage Investigation.

### **Governance Bundle**

This bundle addresses certain organizational issues which need to be addressed to assure that orderly implementation of Program actions can occur as the level of activity increases substantially. These issues include the potential formation of a CALFED management entity, an ERP implementation entity, an entity for coordinated implementation of program monitoring activities, and actions to assure that water quality and water use efficiency measures can be fully implemented.

**Note:** Table 1 incorporates recent review comments by CALFED agencies. To help highlight the various agency inputs, points of agreement, and areas which need further discussion, the comments are shown in bold text and identified with a subscript corresponding to the following agencies:

1. NMFS
2. DWR
3. EPA
4. USFWS
5. DFG

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